## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1    1.    A method for processing network accounting information, comprising:

2    (a)    receiving accounting information over a packet-switched network;

3    (b)    monitoring at least one aspect of the received accounting information; and

4    (c)    discarding at least a portion of the accounting information based on the

5          monitored aspect.


1    2.    The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the accounting information is

2          discarded for providing a defense against network attacks.


1    3.    The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the accounting information is

2          discarded for dealing with heavy network traffic.


1    4.    The method as recited in claim 3, and further comprising generating a

2          summary of the accounting information.


1    5.    The method as recited in claim 1, wherein  monitoring the at least one aspect

2          of the received accounting information includes detecting a scan of a

3          plurality of ports.


1    6.    The method as recited in claim 1, wherein  monitoring the at least one aspect

2          of the received accounting information includes detecting a scan of a

3          plurality of Internet Protocol (IP) addresses.


1    7.    The method as recited in claim 1, wherein monitoring the at least one aspect

2          of the received accounting information includes monitoring a rate of receipt

3          of the accounting information.

1  8.  The method as recited in claim 7, wherein monitoring the at least one aspect

2  of the received accounting information includes detecting whether the rate of

3  receipt of the accounting information exceeds a predetermined amount.

1  9.  The method as recited in claim 1, wherein monitoring the at least one aspect

2  of the received accounting information includes monitoring a load on a

3  system receiving the accounting information.

1  10.  The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the network includes the Internet.

1  11.  A computer program product for processing network accounting information,

2  comprising:

3  (a)  computer code for receiving accounting information over a packet-switched

4  network;

5  (b)  computer code for monitoring at least one aspect of the received accounting

6  information; and

7  (c)  computer code for discarding at least a portion of the accounting information

8  based on the monitored aspect.

1  12.  The computer program product as recited in claim 11, wherein the

2  accounting information is discarded for providing a defense against network

3  attacks.

1  13.  The computer program product as recited in claim 11, wherein the

2  accounting information is discarded for dealing with heavy network traffic.

1  14.  The computer program product as recited in claim 13, and further comprising

2  computer code for generating a summary of the accounting information.

1    15.    The computer program product as recited in claim 11, wherein the computer

2           code for monitoring the at least one aspect of the received accounting

3           information includes computer code for detecting a scan of a plurality of

4           Internet Protocol (IP) addresses.

1    16.    The computer program product as recited in claim 11, wherein the computer

2           code for monitoring the at least one aspect of the received accounting

3           information includes computer code for monitoring a rate of receipt of the

4           accounting information.

1    17.    The computer program product as recited in claim 16, wherein the computer

2           code for monitoring the at least one aspect of the received accounting

3           information includes computer code for detecting whether the rate of receipt

4           of the accounting information exceeds a predetermined amount.

1    18.    The computer program product as recited in claim 11, wherein the computer

2           code for monitoring the at least one aspect of the received accounting

3           information includes computer code for detecting a scan of a plurality of

4           ports.

1    19.    The computer program product as recited in claim 11, wherein the computer

2           code for monitoring the at least one aspect of the received accounting

3           information includes computer code for monitoring a load on a system

4           receiving the accounting information.

1    20.    A system for processing network accounting information, comprising:

2    (a)    logic for receiving accounting information over a packet-switched network;

3    (b)    logic for monitoring at least one aspect of the received accounting

4           information; and

5    (c)    logic for discarding at least a portion of the accounting information based on

6           the monitored aspect.

1    21.    A method for processing network accounting information, comprising:

2    (a)    receiving accounting information over a packet-switched network;

3    (b)    monitoring at least one aspect of the received accounting information; and

4    (c)    conditionally preventing an overload of the accounting information based on

5           the monitored aspect.

1    22.    A method for processing network accounting information, comprising:

2    (a)    receiving accounting information over a packet-switched network;

3    (b)    receiving an indication relating to at least one aspect of the received

4           accounting information; and

5    (c)    conditionally preventing an overload of the accounting information based on

6           the indication.

1    23.    A method for processing network accounting information, comprising:

2    (a)    receiving accounting information over a packet-switched network;

3    (b)    detecting a scan of a plurality of ports;

4    (c)    detecting a scan of a plurality of Internet Protocol (IP) addresses;

5    (d)    detecting a rate of receipt of the accounting information;

6    (e)    detecting whether the rate of receipt of the accounting information exceeds a

7           predetermined amount;

8    (f)    detecting a load on a system receiving the accounting information;

9    (g)    conditionally preventing an overload of the accounting information based on

10          aspects detected during steps (b)-(f); and

11   (h)    generating a summary of the accounting information.

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